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Friday, January 11, 2013

- **EID in POLITICO:** “Promised Land” presents fundamentally false choice on energy, environment ([1/11](#))
- **EID-National:** EID fact-checks popular activist talking point on failure of well casing/cement ([1/10](#))
- **EID-Texas:** Researcher Meagan Baker corrects the record on myths surrounding Tulsa HF ordinance ([1/10](#))

NATIONAL

EPA “running scared,” extends comment period on Pavillion. Platts. The extension announcement “shows the EPA is running scared,” asserted Simon Lomax, a spokesman for Energy in Depth. “The EPA knows its draft report is deeply flawed, because it’s been criticized by the US Bureau of Land Management, the US Geological Survey and Wyoming’s Department of Environmental Quality, as well as scientists and engineering experts from the oil and gas industry,” Lomax said. **NOTE:** EID also featured in [E&E News](#) (sub req’d).

ESA Overreach Could Imperil American Energy. National Journal, IPAA’s Barry Russell. Just over a week into the New Year, energy has taken Washington’s main stage as a top issue for 2013—and rightfully so. Technological advancements and new found energy reserves have redefined America as a global energy superpower. The use of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling in North American shale plays alone has provided thousands of jobs and millions in federal, state and local tax revenues. But there is one issue that could cloud the bright future of American energy all the same: the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Enviros release push-poll on HF. E&E News (sub req’d). John Krohn, spokesman for Energy in Depth, said the low showing of support for exports could be due to bias in the poll’s questions. One question in particular describes U.S. energy exports as having the potential to “boost China and other economies, but hurt U.S. consumers by raising energy and manufacturing costs at home. “This poll is anything but scientific,” Krohn said. “It would be akin to the industry conducting a poll that asked Americans if they would support increased oil and natural gas if it meant not having to live in a cave.”

Regulators find nothing scary about HF. Standard Examiner, Op-Ed. These warnings might be believable if fracking regulators seemed even slightly worried. Instead, federal and state environmental officials appear positively serene about hydraulic fracturing, a decades-old technology that uses sand and chemically treated water to shatter shale deposits far below the water table and liberate natural gas from the ruptured rocks.

USGS study finds no water problems in Arkansas HF. [Washington Examiner](#). "This new study is important in terms of finding no significant effects on groundwater quality from shale gas development within the area of sampling," said USGS Director Marcia McNutt. "None of the data that we have looked at as part of this study suggests that any groundwater contamination is resulting from natural gas production activities," said USGS hydrologist Tim Kresse. NOTE: EID post on the news can be found [here](#).

A One-Percenter Gives Far More than He Takes. [Forbes](#). Fracking is Mitchell's achievement (more than any other single person), not that of the government's roads, schools, and ports, as the President would like us to believe. Steve Forbes and Elizabeth Ames tell George Mitchell's story in their Freedom Manifesto, required reading for the right and left alike. They write of Mitchell's fifteen year quest to develop hydraulic fracturing:

HF viewed as good. [Washington Times](#). A majority of Americans support fracking, but even larger majorities remain concerned about the drilling process' potential impacts on drinking water quality and support more research into the practice, new polling data show.

Shale 'boom' boosts mfgers. [Gas Business Briefing](#) (sub req'd). The primary impact of shale gas will be lower costs for US industry and consumers and expanded capacity and profits for petrochemical companies and energy intensive material producers [like] steel and other metals, cement, pulp and fertilizer," according to "Shale Boom: A Boost to Manufacturing but not to Energy Independence," produced by five FitchRatings analysts.

Flammable faucet attracts concern in Ohio. [NBC's Today Show](#). For the Kline family in Ohio, the cause of their flaming water is still unclear. The gas company told NBC News that they support the state investigation, and that "there are many natural variables that can cause the levels of methane to change." Officials in Ohio say they're taking this case very seriously, and investigate all claims. NOTE: Statements from ODNr, Mountaineer Keystone, and EID [all posted on Today Show's homepage](#).

FRACKNATION

'FrackNation' takes on an anti-HF documentary. [Los Angeles Times](#). The new documentary "FrackNation," directed by Phelim McAleer, Ann McElhinney and Magdalena Segieda, looks to directly take on the Oscar-nominated anti-fracking doc "Gasland," pointing a finger toward that film and its director, Josh Fox, for any subsequent controversy regarding fracking.

A Flip Side to the Attack on HF. [New York Times](#). Narrated by Mr. McAleer, whose previous documentaries have also argued against environmental concerns, "FrackNation" is no tossed-off, pro-business pamphlet. Methodically researched and assembled (and financed by thousands of small donations from an online campaign), the film picks at Mr. Fox's assertions and omissions with dogged persistence. Much of what it reveals is provocative, like a confrontation with Mr. Fox about the presence of methane in the water supply decades before fracking began.

PROMISED LAND

A Professor's Review. [NY Times](#), [Dot Earth Comment](#). Bruce Selleck, a geologist at Colgate University deeply focused on fracking, sent this note with his "review" of the film: "Promised Land" does not really deliver on its premise, but it was entertaining.

'Promised Land' reveals economic plight of rural America. [Your Houston News](#). Raised on an Iowa farm, Steve Butler (Matt Damon) arrives in the "Promised Land" Pennsylvania farm town of McKinley by bus and meets up with sidekick Sue Thompson (Frances McDormand). Amused that Steve can't drive a stick shift, Houstonian Sue greets her boss with a rented vintage SUV with a manual transmission.

"Promised Land": Anti-HF Propaganda. [The New American, Review](#). The story line in the new theatrical release Promised Land is obviously intended to leave audiences with a very dim and scary view of fracking and the companies that use this new method of drilling to tap vast amounts of oil and natural gas that otherwise would be inaccessible. But the depiction in Promised Land is so fantastic that the intent could backfire. Indeed, by the end of the film, moviegoers may be left annoyed and offended by the blatant attack on fracking. Indeed, this reviewer was very annoyed.

INTERNATIONAL

Poland to have new regulations concerning shale gas production this year. [Fox News](#). Poland's Treasury Minister Mikolaj Budzanowski says a much-awaited law that will regulate shale gas production should be adopted this year, helping to develop the potentially lucrative sector.

Shenhua Energy wins shale gas block in southern China. [Reuters](#). China Shenhua Energy Co Ltd , the country's largest coal producer, said on Friday that it has won the auction of a shale gas block in southern China as part of its efforts to further integrate its energy business.

Total plans shale drilling in Denmark. [Oil & Gas Journal](#). Total SA plans exploratory drilling in Denmark later this year in efforts to develop shale plays outside the US, Chief Executive Christophe de Margerie said in an interview published in Le Monde newspaper.

CALIFORNIA

California Announces Preliminary Regulations for Hydraulic Fracturing. [AOL Energy](#). California regulators released the state's first draft regulations for hydraulic fracturing. The industry views the move as a positive start to drive oil and gas development in California, which has some of the strictest well safety regulations.

NORTH CAROLINA

HF regulator: Rules must balance industry needs with protections. [Daily Tar Heel](#). The manufacturing-reliant town, home to a handful of plants including Pfizer and Caterpillar, has suffered from unemployment rates upwards of 10 percent since 2008, leaving boarded-up shops, vacant buildings and picked-over thrift shops to dot the town's center.

NORTHEAST

Groups opposed to HF make final push to collect comments. [Associated Press](#). As Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration nears completion of regulations that could lift a 4 1/2-year-old ban on shale gas drilling in New York, opposition groups have ramped up efforts to persuade the governor to say no to fracking.

Piedmont Natural Gas eyes payoff from pipelines, shale. [Charlotte Business Journal](#). Pipeline projects to supply North Carolina's gas power plants promise a near-term bump for profits at Piedmont Natural Gas Co. Inc. And that comes as the utility also eyes longer-term investments in shale gas.

Andrew Cuomo: Don't read into non-mention. [Rochester Democrat and Chronicle](#). Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Thursday said no one should read into his decision not to address shale-gas drilling in his State of the State speech, pointing to the ongoing review of the controversial technique.

Imagine NY without HF. [Albany Times Union](#), Yoko Ono. My husband, John Lennon, and I bought a beautiful farm in rural New York more than 30 years ago. We loved the tranquility and beauty of the area. Our son, Sean, spent many precious days there growing up. Our family still enjoys it now.

HF could throw dirt on O'Malley's aspirations. [Baltimore Business Journal](#). Although supporting wind energy could weigh in Gov. Martin O'Malley's favor if he makes a future presidential run, drilling for natural gas in Maryland could tip the scales against him.

Gas critics storm hearing. [Albany Times Union](#). State lawmakers got an earful from opponents of natural gas hydrofracking during a marathon hearing Thursday in the Capitol, with many directing fire toward state environmental and health officials who had declined to attend.

NY Town Leaders Lament Lack Of Input In HF Process. [Law360](#). New York town leaders, including one from an area at the heart of the debate over localities' legal rights to restrict high-volume hydraulic fracturing, told state lawmakers Thursday that because local governments bear costs from gas drilling, they should have more say in the regulatory process.

OHIO

Shale gas supply chain: the big picture, part 2. [Crain's Cleveland Business](#). In my Dec. 4th blog post, I looked at the shale gas supply chain opportunity from the angle of those supplies and services where logistics dictate that they be locally obtained. Now, I'd like to examine the more complicated, but high potential, aspects of the supply chain for shale gas in Northeast Ohio, and the process it takes to begin the journey.

TEXAS

Shale playground in W. Texas. [San Antonio Express](#). The Eagle Ford Shale play is still in its early stages, with landmen continuing to hunt for mineral rights across South Texas and no one really knowing how much oil is out there.

WYOMING

EPA again delays Pavillion groundwater investigation related to HF. [Wyoming File](#). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has again delayed action in its highly controversial investigation into contaminated drinking water in Pavillion, Wyoming.

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